

Persons Charged and Dispositions

The collection of data of persons arrested and formally charged, plus subsequent disposition data, is an important tool in the records-keeping process for police administrators. This data offers insight into the effectiveness of police departments with regard to the quality of police investigation, case preparation, and court presentation toward the successful prosecution of the criminal element.

Persons Charged

There were 423,324 persons arrested and formally charged with criminal offenses in 2012. Physical arrests resulted in charges against 228,075 persons (53.9 percent). Criminal citations/summons were issued to 195,249 persons (46.1 percent).

Of the 87,608 persons arrested and formally charged with Crime Index offenses, 60,605 or 69.2 percent were arrested and arraigned, while 27,003 or 30.8 percent received citations/summons. A total of 23,952 Violent Crime offenders were charged in 2012. Physical arrests of Violent Crime offenders totaled 21,090 (88.1 percent), and citations/summons were issued to 2,862 Violent Crime offenders (11.9 percent). Property Crime offenders were charged in 63,656 offenses. Physical arrests of Property Crime offenders occurred in 39,515 cases (62.1 percent), and citations/summons were issued to 24,141 Property Crime offenders (37.9 percent). This latter group was composed primarily of larceny-theft offenders arrested for summary offenses such as shoplifting.

Part II offenders arrested and formally charged amounted to 335,677 persons. Physical arrests and arraignments took place in 167,434 cases (49.9 percent), and citations/summons were issued to 168,243 individuals (50.1 percent). A review indicates that citations were issued to 86.8 percent of persons charged with liquor law violations and to the majority of persons charged with vandalism, drunkenness, disorderly conduct, vagrancy, and all other Part II offenses.

Adult Dispositions

The 108,464 dispositions represent 25.6 percent of the 423,324 persons arrested and formally charged in 2012. This difference is partly due to dispositions of charges from prior years and pending dispositions from persons charged in 2012.

Overall, 81,528 persons (75.2 percent) were found guilty of the offense charged; 7,592 (7.0 percent) were found guilty of a lesser offense; and 19,344 (17.8 percent) were acquitted or dismissed.

Dispositions of Crime Index offenders were distributed as follows: 14,598 or 72.5 percent were guilty as charged; 2,549 or 12.7 percent were guilty of a lesser offense; and 2,983 or 14.8 percent were acquitted or dismissed.

The highest rates of conviction among Crime Index offenders were for the following offenses:

- Arson (78.9 percent)
- Larceny-Theft (76.7 percent)

The highest rates of acquittal or dismissals among the Crime Index offenders were for the following offenses:

- Aggravated Assault (20.5 percent)
- Forcible Rape (16.5 percent)

Of note, the acquittal/dismissal rate for Violent Crime was 18.9 percent as opposed to 13.9 percent for Property Crime.

Dispositions of Part II offenders were distributed as follows: 66,917 or 75.8 percent were guilty as charged; 5,040 or 5.7 percent were guilty of a lesser offense; and 16,360 or 18.5 percent were acquitted or dismissed.

The highest rates of conviction among Part II offenders were for the following offenses:

- Driving Under the Influence (90.7 percent)
- Drunkenness (88.2 percent)

The highest Part II offender dismissal rates were reported for the following offenses:

- Other Assaults - Not Aggravated (32.3 percent)
- Fraud (25.5 percent)

It should be noted that drunkenness acquittal rates are influenced by the practice in some areas of apprehending individuals for drunkenness for their own safety and releasing them when they have regained sobriety.

Juvenile Dispositions

Excluding status offenses, juvenile arrestees where some type of formal action was initiated/taken were disposed of as follows: 13.7 percent or 7,138 were handled by the police department and released; 50.3 percent or 26,288 were referred to juvenile court or juvenile probation departments; .1 percent or 45 were referred to welfare agencies; .8 percent or 441 were referred to other police agencies; and 35.1 percent or 18,345 were referred to adult court, usually the magisterial district judge for specified petty crimes such as underage drinking, shoplifting, etc.

The majority of juveniles handled within the police department and released were arrested for the following offenses:

- Disorderly Conduct (33.0 percent)
- Liquor Law (15.7 percent)

The majority of juveniles referred to juvenile court or juvenile probation departments were arrested for the following offenses:

- Larceny-Theft (15.4 percent)
- Other Assaults - Not Aggravated (14.3 percent)

The majority of juveniles referred to welfare agencies were arrested for the following offenses:

- All Other Offenses (Except Traffic) (20.0 percent)
- Other Assaults - Not Aggravated (17.8 percent)

The majority of juveniles referred to other police agencies were arrested for the following offenses:

- Disorderly Conduct (18.6 percent)
- All Other Offenses (Except Traffic) (16.8 percent)

The majority of juveniles referred to criminal or adult court were arrested for the following offenses:

- Disorderly Conduct (33.3 percent)
- Liquor Law (17.1 percent)